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Security Council

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S/1996/888
30 October 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 29 OCTOBER 1996 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the informal consultations held on Friday, 25 October 1996, at which the members of the Security Council discussed the deteriorating situation in the Great Lakes region of Central Africa.

In accordance with the views expressed by the members of the Council on that occasion, I am taking steps to appoint as soon as possible a Special Representative for the Great Lakes region who would be provided with adequate staff and logistic resources to carry out a variety of functions in the region. I intend to present my proposals to the Security Council in a written report, together with preliminary cost estimates, as soon as the necessary data have been compiled.

Meanwhile, I have decided to appoint a Special Envoy who will travel to the Great Lakes region in the first days of November and remain there for a period of about one month. The Special Envoy's tasks will be threefold. First, he will consult with all concerned in order to establish the facts relating to the present conflicts and will develop urgent plans for defusing the tension and establishing a ceasefire and a process of negotiations. Secondly, he will explore the possibilities for the early convening of a regional conference. Thirdly, he will present me with advice on the mandate to be given to my Special Representative and on the size and structure of the United Nations political presence which, in consultation with the Governments concerned, will be established in the Great Lakes region.

I am happy to be able to inform the Security Council that the Government of Canada has offered to make available the services of the Canadian Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Raymond Chrétien, to serve as my Special Envoy. At my request, the Government of Canada has also agreed to provide an aircraft to facilitate Mr. Chrétien's travel in the region. The United Nations will provide the staff and other resources required for him to perform his functions.

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

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30 October 1996

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LETTER DATED 30 OCTOBER 1996 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 29 October 1996 (S/1996/888) concerning your decision to appoint Mr. Raymond Chrétien of Canada as your Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region has been brought to the attention of the members of the Council. They welcome the decision contained in your letter.

(Signed) Gerardo MARTINEZ BLANCO
President of the Security Council

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General Assembly
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 39
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS
IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL
PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 30 October 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the Tehran Declaration, adopted at the Regional Conference on Afghanistan, which was held at Tehran on 29 and 30 October 1996.

It would be highly appreciated if this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Majid TAKHT-RAVANCHI
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Tehran Declaration, adopted at the Regional Conference on Afghanistan, held at Tehran on 29 and 30 October 1996

Following the escalation of internal hostilities in Afghanistan, and on the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a Regional Conference on Afghanistan was held at Tehran on 29 and 30 October 1996. The Foreign Ministers, Ministers and Special Envoys of India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Turkey, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan, as well as the Special Representatives of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union, participated in the Conference.

In two days of meetings, the participants carried out extensive consultations on the various aspects of the situation in Afghanistan, particularly in the light of recent developments.

The Conference expressed concern at the escalation of armed hostilities in Afghanistan, which had resulted in immense human losses and irreparable damage to the country in the economic, social and cultural spheres, and endangered regional peace, stability and security.

The Conference deplored recent flagrant violations of human rights in Afghanistan, particularly the rights of women, and called for an immediate end to such practices in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Conference underlined the imperative of respect for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and emphasized the necessity of cessation of foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

The Conference reiterated the urgency of cessation of violence and armed hostilities, and called upon conflicting Afghan parties to refrain from resorting to force and to settle their differences by peaceful means through inter-Afghan negotiations for a durable political solution and the establishment of a broad-based government. In that context, the Conference endorsed the recent relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, especially Security Council resolution 1076 (1996).

The Conference underlined its support for the commendable efforts of the United Nations and its Special Mission to Afghanistan, and those of other international organizations, in particular the Organization of the Islamic Conference, for the restoration of peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan. The participants declared their readiness to contribute effectively to these efforts aimed at arresting the internal conflict and commencing inter-Afghan dialogue for national reconciliation and the establishment of a broad-based government.

The Conference supported the decision of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene an international conference of States with interest and influence in Afghanistan aimed at a concerted and joint search for a political settlement in Afghanistan.

The Conference called upon all States and international organizations to extend all possible humanitarian assistance to the civilian population of Afghanistan and Afghan refugees.

The Conference decided to take appropriate follow-up measures at the regional level within the framework of the United Nations, with a view to actively pursuing ways and means of bringing about cessation of internal hostilities and facilitating the ongoing peacemaking efforts, in contact and collaboration with various Afghan groups, pertinent international organizations and States with interest and influence.

The Conference expressed its readiness to hold another meeting to review the latest developments in Afghanistan, assess the progress made in the implementation of this Declaration and consider ways and means of implementing, on the regional level, the decisions of the international conference to be held under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The Conference participants expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for convening the Regional Conference on Afghanistan and for the excellent arrangements.